

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 01362 151346Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----104378 151347Z /46

O R 151259Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 940
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1362

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TASG: PROG, MARR, MOPS, UNSC, IS, LE
SUBJ: UNIFIL -- PALESTINIAN CONFRONTATION AT MA'RAKAH

1. UN SOURCE INFORMED US MAY 15 THAT UNIFIL FORCES IN
MA'RAKAH AREA DISCOVERED LARGE (60 PLUS)
NUMBER OF ARMED PALESTINIANS AFTERNOON MAY 13.
PALESTINAINS RESISTED ATTEMPT BY UNIFIL TO DISARM
AND REMOVE THEM FROM AREA CALIMING THEY HAD BEEN IN
SAME LOCATION FOR 45 DAYS AND HAD RIGHT TO
REMAIN. ACCORDING TO UN SOURCE, UNIFIL FORCES WERE
ORDERED NOT TO ENGAGE PALESTINIANS WITH FORCE BUT
RATHER TO NEGOTIATE SITUATION. AS OF NOON
MAY 15 NEGOTIATIONS WERE STILL GOING ON BETWEEN UN AND PLO
BOTH ON THE SCENE AND IN BEIRUT. UNIFIL REPORTS INDICATE
THAT PALESTINIAN GROUP INCLUDES PFLP, IRAQI BAATHISTS, AND
LABANESE LEFTISTS AS WELL AS FATAH ELEMENTS,
LEADER OF GROUP IS IDENTIFIED AS FATAH OFFICER.

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COMMENT: SOURCE TELLS US THAT ERSKINE HAS BEEN
ALERTED BY SIILASVUO TO IMPORTANCE OF THIS CONFRONTATION
AS TEST CASE OF UNIFIL'S CAPABILITY. WE WILL SEE WHAT
SUCCESS NEGOTIATIONS WITH PLO HAVE. NEWLIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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